

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-03

MC-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /113 W

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R 231023Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4414

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

OSAF

CSAF

SECNAV

CNO

OSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4674

SECNAV FOR SECRETARY MIDDENDORF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MPOL, OVIP (STEMERDINK, ABRAHAM), NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH STATE SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE PLANNING
US VISIT

1. STATE SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE (MATERIEL) STEMERDINK
TOLD DCM SEPT. 20 HE IS PLANNING TO SPEND PART OR ALL
OF SECOND WEEK DECEMBER VISITING US, AND THAT HE ALSO
WILL BE VISITING FRANCE AND SWEDEN "SINCE THAT IS PART
OF THE GAME" (ALLUSION TO F104 REPLACEMENT QUESTION).

2. STEMERDINK SAID HE WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS HIS TRAVEL
PLANS WITH MOD VREDELING BUT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY
OBJECTIONS FROM LATTER REGARDING THIS TRIP. HE WOULD
LIKE TO VISIT EDWARDS AFB TO OBSERVE THE YF-16 AND 17,
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FOOD MACHINERY CORPORATION IN SAN JOSE IN CONNECTION

WITH AMX PROCUREMENT, RAYTHEON CORPORATION IN MASSACHUSETTS REGARDING THE HAWK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS IN CONNECTION WITH THE "HARPOON PROBLEM" AND WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH US OFFICIALS. AT MOST, ONE OTHER GON OFFICIAL WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM.

3. DCM SAID EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO ADVISE WASHINGTON OF STEMERDINK'S TENTATIVE PLANS AND INTERESTS, AND THAT HE ANTICIPATED AN EARLY RESPONSE. HE NOTED SECRETARY MIDDENDORF'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECEIVING DUTCH OFFICIALS DURING THEIR VISITS TO US AND STEMERDINK INDICATED HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE THE SECRETARY.

4. COMMENT: STEMERDINK'S PLANNED VISIT, ASSUMING HIS PROPOSED TIMING HOLDS, WILL COINCIDE WITH THE FINAL STAGES IN THE PROCESS OF SELECTION BY USAF OF EITHER YF-16 OR 17 TO MEET ITS OWN REQUIREMENTS AND THUS WILL PRESENT EXCELLENT OCCASION TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF STENERDINK'S OWN PREDILECTION FOR SELECTION OF US REPLACEMENT FOR GON'S F104S. HE IS YOUNG, DYNAMIC, ENERGETIC AND INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF DUTCH LABOR PARTY, WELL DISPOSED TOWARD US, AND HAS SUCCEEDED IN CARRYING OUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN PROFESSIONAL AND EFFECTIVE MANNER. HE AUTHORED SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF GON'S DEFENSE WHITE PAPER, WHICH WILL BE DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT BEGINNING SEPT 25. ONLY AFTER THIS DEBATE HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND DUTCH DEFENSE POLICY APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT WILL HE BE ABLE TO MAKE HIS PLANNED TRIPS TO US, FRANCE AND SWEDEN.

4. RECOMMENDATION: IN VIEW OF STEMERDINK'S VITAL ROLE WITH RESPECT TO GON'S DECISION ON SELECTION OF REPLACEMENT FOR ITS F104S AND HIS POLITICAL IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL FOR WIELDING EVEN GREATER POLITICAL INFLUENCE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT HE BE EXTENDED ALL APPROPRIATE COURTESIES AND ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING PROVISION OF AIRLIFT DURING HIS BRIEF BUT CONCENTRATED US VISIT. IN DUE COURSE EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OFFICIALS WHOM IT FEELS STEMERDINK SHOULD SEE WHILE IN WASHINGTON.
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